

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

A technique for use in gathering network activity-related information from cascaded network switches is provided. Using this technique, the information can be gathered without substantially reducing performance of the cascaded switches. In one embodiment, a single remote monitoring probe is connected via respective connections to each of the switches so as to receive the information from the switches. In another embodiment, only one of the switches is connected to the probe, and the other switches transmit their respective portions of the information to the switch connected to probe. The switch connected to the probe provides these portions of the information, as well as, any of its respective activity-related information to the probe. In this latter embodiment, the switches may be connected by dedicated connections and switch ports that are used solely for communicating the activity-related information.